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ACTION EA 19

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: THE WINNERS IN BINH DUONG

REF: SAIGON 5829; SAIGON 7604; SAIGON 9168

1. REFEELS REPORTED ON THE CANDIDATES FOR THE TWO BINH
DUONG LOWER HOUSE SEATS. THE WINNERS WERE:

A. NGUYEN CONG AN, 30, 11,563 VOTES FOR A PERCENT-
AGE OF 13.8. HE IS A BUDDHIST. ON ELECTION NIGHT PRO-
VINCIAL OFFICIALS AT THE ELECTION HEADQUARTERS EXPRESSED
AMAZEMENT WHEN AN FORGED INTO AN EARLY LEADER WHICH HE
HELD THROUGHOUT THE EVENING. AN IS THE RESPECTED ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL SERVICE CHIEF IN BINH DUONG AND A FORMER
TEACHER. APPARENTLY, PROVINCIAL CONTACTS SAY, HE WON
SUPPORT NOT BECAUSE HE WAGED AN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN OR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Ivan Izubey DATE 1/20/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS. ☐
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BECAUSE OF BACK-ROOM POLITICS, BUT BECAUSE AMNY VOTERS
SIMPLY PICKED A "TEACHER" IN PREFERENCE TO CANDIDATES
WITH LESS RESPECTED PROFESSIONS. THE ONLY OTHER CANDI-
DATE WHO IS A TEACHER, HUYNH THANH TAM, ALSO DID WELL.
TAM, ONLY [27] AND EXPECTED TO PLACE NEAR THE BOTTOM,
FINISHED IN THE MIDDLE.

B. NGUYEN VAN HAO, 40, 8,862 VOTES FOR A PERCENT-
AGE OF 12.6. HAO A BUDDHIST VILLAGE CHIEF FROM
POPULOUS CHAU THANH DISTRICT, REPORTEDLY WON BY A BIG
MARGIN IN HIS HOME AREA. HIS VICTORY SURPRISED PRO-
VINCIAL OBSERVERS EQUALLY AS MUCH AS AN'S SHOWING.
BY EARLY MORNING ON 23 OCTOBER, HAO HAD BROKEN AWAY
FROM THREE CLOSE RIVALS.

2. CLOSET RUNNERS-UP WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. LE VAN NHUNG, 29, 8,644 VOTES. NHUNG, YOUNG
AND INEXPERIENCED, HAD CONCEDED DEFEAT LONG BEFORE
ELECTION. LOCAL OBSERVERS EXPLAINED NHUNG'S PUDD SHOW-
ING TO THE "TWO DOVES" SYMBOL NHUNG USED IN CAMPAIGN.
BINH DUONG VOTERS APPARENTLY LINKED NHUNG'S SYMBOL WITH
TRUONG DINH DZU, THE PRESIDENTIAL "PEACE CANDIDATE"

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WHO HAD CARRIED THE PROVINCE.

B. CAO PHONG WAN, 40, 8,138 VOTES. WAN, A RICH
BUSINESSMAN, REPORTEDLY SUCCEEDED IN ALLEGED "BUYING-
OFF" OF VOTERS AMONG ARVN 5TH DIVISION. LOCAL REACTION
AT ELECTION CENTER WAS SHRUG OF SHOULDERS AT "RICH
MAN'S VOTE."

C. TA NGOC TUONG, 33, 7,099 VOTES. LOCAL CVT
CHIEF, TUONG WAS HIGHEST AMONG THOSE CANDIDATES GENERALLY
EXPECTED TO LEAD RACE. HIS RUNNING MATE, NGUYEN NGOC

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BAN, FAILED TO FOLLOW ON COATTAILS OF TUONG VOTE AND PLACED WELL DOWN IN LIST.

D. PHAM DINH HUNG, 32, 6,991 VOTES. HUNG, WHO TOLD EMBOFF AND OTHER THAT HE EXPECTED TO WIN, CONTINUED TO HOPE FOR VICTORY UNTIL THE LAST RETURNS WERE IFBM AS CA DEPUTY. HE WAS CONVINCED DURING TALLY THAT HIS SUPPORT HAD NOT DIMINISHED. AS MANY CA DEPUTIES, HUNG SUFFERED FROM CRITICISM THAT HE HAD NOT "DONE ENOUGH" FOR HIS CONSTITUENTS.

3. BINH DUONG VOTER TURNOUT WAS PARALLEL TO NATIONAL TURNOUT. 83,372 VOTERS WENT TO POLLS FOR A PERCENTAGE OF 73.7. VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF VIET CONG-INITIATED INCIDENTS

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FOR FORTY-EIGHT HOURS PRIOR TO OPENING OF POLLS UN-
DOUBTEDLY HELPED BOOST TURNOUT. ELECTION OBSERVERS
NOTED THAT MOST VOTERS CAME VERY EARLY AND VOTED IN
MATTER OF FEW SECONDS.

BUNKER

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